

**DECISION DOCUMENTATION**  
**Between the**  
**USDA FOREST SERVICE, Bitterroot National Forest**  
**And the**  
**Montana State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation**

The purpose of this decision document is to provide for documentation by the parties involved in the operation of this fire when the parties are working together, but not sharing costs.

**Incident Name:** Tin Cup Fire

<b><u>Origin</u></b>	Township	3 N	Range	21 W	Sections	8, 9, 16, 17
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**Estimated Size:** 608 acres (Forest Service Protection 500 acres; County Protection 108 acres.)

**Incident Start Date and Time:** August 5, 2007 at approximately 1600.

**Jurisdictions:** Fire started on Bitterroot National Forest lands and moved onto Montana State and Private lands, all in Ravalli County.

**Incident Cause:** unknown – under investigation.

**Incident Numbers by Agency:**

Agency	Fire #	Accounting Code
Forest Service	MT-BRF-005138	
Forest Service Job Code		P1DU9J/0103
DNRC		86001

**Cost Share Period:** This agreement becomes effective on the date indicated below and will remain in effect until amended or terminated.

State date/time: August 5, 2007 at 1600

End date/time: August 12, 2007 at 1800

**Command Structure:** Overall direction of this incident will be by **Single Command** structure, working with Ravalli Co. Sheriff and Darby Rural Fire Department..

**Principal Contacts.** The following personnel are the principal contacts:

Position	Name	Agency
Incident Commander	Bill Kaage	NPS
Agency Administrative Rep.	Chuck Oliver, Darby District Ranger	USFS-BRF

**Agency representatives participating in the development of this cost share agreement:**

Forest Service: BRF Name: Laurie Claar Title: Incident Business Advisor	MT DNRC: Name: Paul Moore Title: Hamilton Unit Manager
Name: Rick Floch Title: Forest Forest Management Officer	Name: Pam Okon Title: Fire Business Specialist

**Structural Protection:**

1. Identify the entity(s) that will provide structural protection and the rationale.

The fire area involves National Forest lands where the BRF has sole responsibility for fire protection; private lands within the National Forest protective area where both the Forest and Darby Rural Fire Department have responsibility for fire protection; private lands where the Darby Rural Fire Department has fire protection responsibility, only; and State and private lands where only Ravalli County has fire protection responsibility.

2. Also include the matrix that identifies the protecting entities and their responsibilities.

**PROTECTING ENTITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Entity & Location of Protection	Wildland Fire Responsibility (Yes or No)	Structure Protection Responsibility (Yes or No)	Structure Suppression Responsibility (Yes or No)
BRF – all NF lands and private lands within Section 8 and Brandborg inholding.	Yes	Yes	No
Darby VFD – all private lands in Section 8 and private lands in Section 4, 9 and 16...	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ravalli County - MT State lands in Sec. 16 and a small portion of Section 21	Yes	Yes	No

**Basis or Rationale for Decision:**

This fire originated on National Forest lands and had the potential to threaten both Montana State and private lands and private structures, including the town of Darby MT, particularly given the prevailing winds in this area. For this reason, the Forest Service IA Incident Commander made the decision to utilize all available air and ground resources to keep the fire from moving off the National Forest, minimizing impacts to State/private lands and residences. Air resources consisted of SEATS, heavy airtankers, and helicopters with buckets and ground resources. Ground resources consisted of 3 dozers, Forest Service handcrews and engines and local Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) engines. During the course of the fire, Forest Service hand crews and engines focused on work within their protective area; VFD focused on their areas of protection, and air resources focused on the fire edge as it moved from National Forest to State/private lands. As times as the need occurred, Federal, contract, and RFD resources worked back and forth across jurisdictional boundaries to effectively and efficiently contain the fire. Based on where the fire started on this description of activities that occurred on the fire, the following cost share was determined:

1. Work performed by the local Rural Fire Departments working on both BNF protection and County protection will be paid as follows:
  - August 5, 2007 All agencies will assume their own costs until 0700 hours on August 6, 2007.
  - August 6, 2007 The DNRC will assume 100% RFD personnel costs on the fire, plus \$250.00 per/day stipend for each rural engine and water tender at the incident.
  - August 7, 2007 The DNRC will assume 100% RFD personnel costs on the fire, plus \$250.00 per/day stipend for each rural engine and water tender at the incident.
  - August 8 –12, 2007 The DNRC will assume 100% of the cost of local RFD resources assigned to the fire, plus full rate for engines and water tenders.
2. The Forest Service will be responsible for costs associated with the incident management team, as well as the costs of all air and ground resources, not including the VFD resources in #1 above.
3. Suppression rehab costs will be the responsibility of each protection agency.

Northern Region 7/07, Amended 7/30/07

This Agreement and the apportionment described are our best judgments of fair and equitable Agency cost responsibilities.

Agency: USDA Forest Service, Bitterroot National Forest  
1801 N. First  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_


  
DAVID T. BULL, Forest Supervisor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/10/07

Agency: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Southwestern Land Office  
Missoula, MT 59804

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

  
ANTHONY L. LANE, Southwestern Area Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/6/07